

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

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DRAFTED BY EA/K:JBOARDMAN:FLW
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, KS, US

SUBJECT: MILITARY SERVICE OBLIGATIONS OF KOREAN-AMERICAN
DOCTORS

1. DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED A NUMBER OF INQUIRIES FROM CONGRESS ON BEHALF OF KOREAN-AMERICAN DOCTORS WHO WILL ATTEND 3RD ANNUAL JOINT MEDICAL CONVENTION OF THE KOREAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION IN SEOUL WEEK JUNE 19. DOCTORS, WHO ARE AMERICAN CITIZENS WITH SOME RETAINING DUAL NATIONALITY, HAVE RECEIVED REPORTS FROM FRIENDS IN KOREA THAT SOME OF THEM MAY FACE LEGAL PROBLEMS IF THEY RETURN TO KOREA BECAUSE OF FAILURE TO COMPLETE MILITARY SERVICE. THEY REPORTEDLY ARE ALSO CONCERNED BECAUSE DUAL CITIZENS HAVE NOT RECEIVED ROKG WAIVER OF MILITARY OBLIGATION PRIOR TO CONVENTION AS HAS BEEN PAST PRACTICE.

2. DEPARTMENT HAS INFORMED THOSE CONCERNED OF LIMITATIONS IN CONSULAR PROTECTION FOR AMCITS AND STRESSED THAT FOREIGNERS ARE SUBJECT TO KOREAN LAW WHILE IN KOREA. AT SAME TIME WE NOTED THAT WE ARE NOT AWARE OF PREVIOUS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROBLEMS INVOLVING AMERICAN CITIZENS AND ROK MILITARY OBLIGATION.

3. SINCE THE DOCTORS WILL BE ATTENDING THE CONVENTION

AT THE INVITATION OF THE KOREAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION WE BELIEVE DOCTORS' CONCERNS ARE PROBABLY UNFOUNDED.

HOWEVER, EMBASSY SHOULD BE AWARE OF SITUATION, AND SOME
DOCTORS MAY WISH TO REGISTER AS AMCITS AT CONSULAR
SECTION. DEPARTMENT WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE MOST RECENT
INFORMATION EMBASSY HAS CONCERNING ROKG POLICY ON DUAL
NATIONALS AND MILITARY OBLIGATION. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 16-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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